Dear colleagues and friends,

We are contacting you today to inform you of an important new paper that has been published by the IUCN, and to ask for your support in sharing the document with colleagues and members. This paper, prepared by members of the Geoheritage Specialist Group, supports the discussion of adopting a holistic approach to nature, contributes to ideas in the draft IUCN Strategic Vision and Programme, and dovetails with a submitted WCC motion, "Defining Nature for IUCN's Future".

Issues Paper #5 proposes that the Union and its members make a light adjustment to the existing IUCN definition of nature. It seeks to promote an integrated approach to ensure more fruitful outcomes in a connected, resilient natural world and for a just future for all peoples. The Earth is suffering from multiple threats due to human activities and climate change, including geodiversity modification as well as biodiversity loss. All facets of our natural environment are deeply intertwined. It is urgent to align our shared thoughts and collective actions to reinforce natural heritage restoration and conservation. Nature is controlled by both biotic and abiotic elements, and overall biodiversity is underpinned by geodiversity. Although recognised, the Union is largely tacit on this point.

It is urgent to align our shared thoughts and collective actions to ensure the strongest possible outcomes for nature, from classic conservation to innovative approaches such as Nature-based Solutions. The IUCN is the world's foremost conservation body and sets the standard for nature. It is in this capacity we are seeking to encourage the Union lead internationally with a nuanced update of its definition, to champion a systematic holistic approach to the natural world.

We kindly invite you to read and share the paper addressing points issues here: Issues Paper #5

For information, the authors have sent a letter to Nature to encourage support for this holistic approach to the natural world, citing the IUCN Issues Paper. Please find attached a copy of this letter for information.

Could you please be so kind as to provide some short feedback on this document and this matter, your opinion is of great importance to the WCPA GSG and the work it has been conducting.

Kind regards

Kyung-Sik Woo

Chair, IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group

Sophie Justice

Lead author, Issues Paper #5